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QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
OF THE  
STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

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JUNE, 1846.

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*Twelfth Annual Report of the Statistical Society of London.*  
Session 1845-6.

THE Council of the Statistical Society of London, in rendering to the Fellows an account of its year's stewardship, has at length the pleasure of presenting to them a perfectly clear balance sheet, and yet one which shows that their funded property remains undiminished. The mere excess of current income over current expenditure has enabled it, notwithstanding the charges incurred in removing from Regent-street to the present apartments of the Society, to extinguish the arrear of debt, to an amount varying between £50 and £100, with which each year has so long been commenced. It is, therefore, with double satisfaction, that the Council congratulate the Fellows on this removal, by which it effects a saving of £50 per annum in rent, although the style and extent of the accommodation afforded by the new apartments, are such as would have warranted an addition of that amount to the former rental. About £30 will be required in the current year, to defray the cost of adapting the furniture of the former apartments to the present, and that of making some additions to it, required by the ample space now enjoyed; but the removal has occasioned no other extraordinary outlay which is not included in the annexed balance sheet, and defrayed in the last year's expenditure.

The number of Fellows elected during the past year has been 13, the number who have withdrawn from the Society, or are deceased, 11; and the newly-revised list will contain the names of 412 Fellows.

A part of the Society's affairs which it appeared to the Council might be put upon a sounder footing, was the printing of its Journal: and circumstances arising which placed them at liberty to seek any new tender for that labour, one was required from Messrs. Harrison, with which they closed, because it offered a saving of £20 per annum, at the same time that the character and resources of the firm were a sufficient guarantee that the work would be turned out in the best style of their art; an expectation which has been fully realized. The stock on hand of the Journals and publications of the Society was at the same time obtained from Messrs. Clowes, and transferred to its new premises; and the whole of its affairs are thus brought into a clear and compendious arrangement. Seventy pounds per annum have been virtually added to the income of the Society by these savings, and

with all its movable property on the present insured premises, it has commenced the year 1846 with a clear thousand pounds balance in its favour.

The only Committee of the Society which has received funds for local investigations during the past year, is the Committee for collecting the Statistics of the population inhabiting a central portion of Whitechapel, a description of whose condition would, it was anticipated, afford a fair picture of that of the vast mass of the labouring population occupying the eastern part of the metropolis, on the north side of the Thames. This Committee owed its appointment to a special donation of £25 by Mr. Hallam, towards an inquiry of this nature to be made in the metropolis. Mr. Slaney made another of £10, in aid of its operations; and a further sum of £16 4s. has been granted for their completion from the general funds of the Society. At first the Committee had considerable difficulty in procuring agents possessing the peculiar qualifications required for the task, but they were at length fortunate enough to obtain persons of character eminently qualified, and they have now collected the whole of the required details, by careful survey and investigation from house to house.

The details themselves are interesting, but an abstract of the results, which will be much more so, is in course of preparation, and will be laid before the Society at one of the meetings of the present Session.

The labours of the Committee on Benefit Societies were superseded for the time by those of Mr. F. G. P. Neison in the same field; the results of which, under the name of Contributions to Vital Statistics, have already been laid before the Society, and published in brief in its Journal. Their scientific value, and their utility to the most meritorious part of the poorer classes, entitle Mr. Neison's labours to the highest praise; conducted, as they undoubtedly have been, at a great pecuniary as well as personal sacrifice. The complete re-analysis of the Criminal Statistics of England, by the Rev. Whitworth Russell, submitted to the Society at the first meetings of the present Session, was, in like manner, both for its extent and intricacy, a work rather for an associated body than one which it was to be expected that any individual would undertake, however much interested in the results. In the recent numbers of your Journal the papers of Dr. Guy upon the influence of employments on health, and on the expectation of life among the higher classes, together with the principal papers read at the fifteenth meeting of the Statistical Section of the British Association at Cambridge in June last, have successively appeared. Among the latter the paper on the Progress and Present Extent of Savings Banks in the United Kingdom, by G. R. Porter, Esq., that on the Trade of Norway, by R. Valpy, Esq., and that on the Statistics of Merthyr Tydvil, by G. S. Kenrick, Esq., are especially deserving of attention.

The paper to be brought before you this evening, by Mr. Butler Williams, on the public advantages, yet undeveloped, to be derived from the railway system, will also tend to show how immediately each new truth which can be elaborated in social science seeks to realize itself, directly or indirectly, in corresponding social improvements, and to demonstrate that the practical and the scientific are

never far removed. Indeed the Society may congratulate itself that the habit of reasoning upon extended observations, adduced by patient research, which it was the great purpose of its formation to cultivate, is happily becoming more and more one of society at large, no less than of statesmen.

The Country has long had its Statistical Department under a chief officer, the results of whose labours are constantly used to test nearly all reasoning on public interests; and now the East India Company has followed its example, and established for their peculiar empire a Statistical Department, which must become the laboratory of many a new truth deeply affecting our interests, our feelings, and our honour. Neither would we repress a hope, generated by the past instances of liberality shown by the Company towards this Society, that our meetings may become the medium through which that honourable body may occasionally communicate to the English world results whose scientific and social importance does not terminate with their official value.

The Reports of the Health of Towns Commission, which has closed its labours during the past year, afford an additional testimony to the value of statistical evidence, and to the necessity for its production imposed by the growing habits of the age. The Report of Professor Playfair on the towns of Lancashire more particularly demands your attention.

The only publication during the past year by a provincial Statistical Society is that of the Statistical Society of Manchester, "On the demoralization and injuries occasioned by the want of proper regulations of labourers engaged in the construction and making of Railways;" and it is not without regret that the Council witness how ephemeral is the existence, or transitory, are the exertions, of the local Statistical Societies generally. Were they associated with the Central Society, as suggested in its last Annual Report, they on the one hand would learn that the labours of the statist are never finished, while we should constantly profit by contributions based on the vivid impressions of their local experience.

The most important work which we have received from the Continent during the past year, is the Statistical Tables of the Prussian States, by M. Dieterici, Director of the Statistical Bureau at Berlin. It is not, however, necessarily to be concluded that this is the most important work published on the Continent during the same period; for the Council regret to state that there is much to be desired in regard as well to the communication, as to the subsequent safe and expeditious transmission to the Society, of the works produced under the patronage of foreign Governments. The free communication of such papers would tend greatly to augment the value of our reasonings by extending their basis, or refining our observation to the collection of new data; and every improvement to which can we be mutually incited is, of necessity, not national merely, but European.

The annexed is the balance sheet of the Society's accounts for the past year, duly reported by the Auditors.

*Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure from the 1st JANUARY to the 31st DECEMBER, 1845.*

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
To Balance in the hands of Treasurer . . . . .		136	12 5	By Rent . . . . .		300	0 0
" Secretaries . . . . .		8	19 4½	Insurance (2 years) . . . . .		4	10 0
" 2 for 1840 . . . . .	£4 4 0			Salaries . . . . .		205	0 0
Arrears of { 5 for 1841 . . . . .	10 10 0			Housekeeping Expenses, including Expenses of Removal to			
Subscriptions paid. { 7 1842 . . . . .	14 14 0			New Chambers . . . . .		35	3 9
{ 10 1843 . . . . .	21 0 0			Printing . . . . .		254	19 0
{ 19 1844 . . . . .	39 18 0			Editing and Advertising Journal . . . . .		93	9 0
Subscriptions . . . . .		611	2 0	Stationery (2 years) . . . . .		19	3 2
Compositions . . . . .		105	0 0	Parcels, including Delivery of Journal and Postages . . . . .		12	18 4
Sale of Journal . . . . .		46	6 10	Library . . . . .		28	10 3
Dividends on Stock . . . . .		56	10 0	Engraving . . . . .		3	13 6
Mr. Slaney in aid of the Statistics of Whitechapel . . . . .		10	0 0	Miscellaneous . . . . .		6	2 10
Balance due to petty cash . . . . .		6	6 3½	Grant to Mr. Hallam's Committee for collecting the Statistics of Whitechapel . . . . .		30	0 0
				Grant to House Committee . . . . .		10	0 0
Assets, December 31, 1845:—		£1,071	2 11	Cash Balance . . . . .		67	13 1
Stock in the Reduced 3½ per Cent., £569 17s., cost £567		867	0 0	Total . . . . .		£1,071	2 11
" Consols 3 per Cent., £328 18s. 4d., " £300							
Balances of Grants made to Committees:—				Liabilities, December 31, 1845:—			
House Committee . . . . .	£8 15 2			Messrs. Cloves for Printing . . . . .	£63 7 6		
Charities Committee . . . . .	1 10 0			Yacher and Sons for Copying, &c. . . . .	5 8 6		
Library Committee . . . . .	4 14 10			Mr. Hallam's Committee . . . . .	21 4 0		
				Total Liabilities . . . . .	£90 0 0		
Cash Balance . . . . .							
Dividend on Stock due . . . . .	£4 4 0						
2 for 1840 . . . . .	10 10 0						
5 for 1841 . . . . .	31 10 0						
Arrears of { 13 for 1842 . . . . .	39 18 0						
Subscriptions due. { 19 for 1843 . . . . .	73 10 0						
{ 35 for 1844 . . . . .	111 6 6						
{ 35 for 1845 . . . . .	130 18 0						
Deduct Amount not likely to be paid . . . . .	140 0 0						
Total Assets . . . . .	£1,103 13 1						

London, February 12, 1846.

Examined, Audited, and Approved,  
 JOHN BOWRING,  
 R. G. GRIFFITH,  
 F. G. P. NELSON.